

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Centennial High School
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Cougars See No Limit to Recycling

The Member

Centennial High School's environmental program has been active since the opening of the school in 1996. With a total student population of 1600, there is plenty of waste generated from normal everyday school activities. The Environmental Science classes are the ring leaders of green initiatives, working in teams to accomplish recycling, erosion control, litter pick-ups, and beautification, to name a few.



The Story

Environmental Science teacher, Mr. Jeff Taylor, chooses to have a project-oriented class, focusing on improving Centennial's image as well as the surrounding community. He also hopes to instill values in his students that may carry on into their future. When Centennial opened, Mr. Taylor started the recycling teams. Paper-recycling bins are in each classroom, and the student body is encouraged to use them for waste paper, as opposed to throwing it in a trash bin. Once a week the team goes throughout the school, collecting the paper for pick-up from an outside dumpster provided by Alliance Recycling.

A second team monitors the aluminum and plastics bins in the school hallways. They have painted stencils of the recycling symbol on the walls directly above the recycling bins throughout the school to let students know that it is not a regular trash bin. Once a week, they collect the bins, empty them in the dedicated dumpsters behind the school, wash out the bins, and replace them in the halls. Williamson

Recycles picks up the aluminum, plastic, cardboard boxes and steel cans generated by the cafeteria.

A third team participates in the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Spot program with the City of Franklin. The students themselves went before the Board of Mayor Alderman to request their permission to start participating in the program, which did not exist in Franklin at that time. Centennial has adopted Mallory Lane and Liberty Pike, where they pick up all recyclables and litter. They also participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program by cleaning up a section of Lewisburg Pike, a local state highway.

The Success

Since the opening of Centennial, students have recycled 3860 pounds of steel, 1300 pounds of plastic, 9920 pounds of aluminum, 46,593 pounds of paper, and 50,736 pounds of corrugated cardboard.

The Pollution Prevented

Our nation's trash is a major source of pollution, from litter on highways to illegal dumps. Recycling is important because it keeps the recycled items out of the waste stream and conserves landfill space. It also provides materials that can be made into new items containing recycled content, which conserves new natural resources and prevents the pollution of air and water associated with mining and processing of raw materials. In the past six years Centennial has diverted a total of 112,409 pounds of recyclables from the landfill, some of which were polluting the roadways of Franklin.

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